



Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
Dickey Rural Services, Inc.

**Filed via ECFS**

April 26, 2016

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554  
Attn: Wireline Competition Bureau

Re: Dickey Rural Services, Inc. (FRN: 0006999155)  
Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90

Dear Ms. Dortch,

Pursuant to the *A-CAM Public Notice*,<sup>1</sup> Dickey Rural Services, Inc. ("DRS" or the "Company"), a fixed wireless provider in North Dakota that provides no voice over its network, hereby demonstrates that the Company cannot be considered an "unsubsidized competitor" for the purposes of the Alternative Connect America Cost Model ("A-CAM"). Accordingly, the competitive coverage contained in v.2.2 of the A-CAM characterizing DRS as an unsubsidized competitor is incorrect. DRS strongly urges the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or "Commission") and the Wireline Competition Bureau ("WCB" or "Bureau") to immediately correct this error and notify all affected rate-of-return carriers that DRS will not "knock out" A-CAM support in their territories.

According to Section 54.5 of the FCC's rules, an "unsubsidized competitor" is "a facilities-based provider of residential fixed voice and broadband service that does not receive high-cost support."<sup>2</sup> Further, the Bureau has stated that in addition to using Form 477 broadband deployment data, the A-CAM uses "the most recent Form 477 voice subscription data to identify which cable or fixed wireless broadband competitors also offer voice service; only these competitors are included in the [broadband] coverage table."<sup>3</sup> As explained below, DRS' revised

<sup>1</sup> See Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Alternative Connect America Cost Model Version 2.2 and Illustrative Results and Commences Challenge Process to Competitive Coverage, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice (rel. Apr. 7, 2016) ("*A-CAM Public Notice*").

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 54.5 (emphasis supplied).

<sup>3</sup> Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Alternative Connect America Cost Model Version 1.1 and Illustrative Results For Potential Use in Rate-of Return Areas, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice (rel. Aug. 31, 2015).



June 2015 Form 477 data shows no voice subscription data for the fixed wireless company. Accordingly, DRS should not be characterized as an unsubsidized competitor.

After the FCC released v.2.0 of the A-CAM,<sup>4</sup> DRS became aware that the A-CAM was erroneously treating it as an unsubsidized competitor, apparently due to confusion over the fact that the broadband services it provides was being reported in one Form 477 filing along with the incumbent local exchange (“ILEC”) voice services provided by its affiliate, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative (“Dickey Rural”). On December 4, 2015, DRS and Dickey Rural revised the Form 477 filings containing December 2014 and June 2015 data. As demonstrated in the attached confirmations for the revised June 2015 data, DRS submitted fixed broadband deployment and subscription data with no voice subscription data indicated (see Attachment A).<sup>5</sup> Subsequently, Dickey Rural promptly notified the FCC of these revisions.<sup>6</sup>

However, when Version 2.2 was released, DRS continued to be characterized as an unsubsidized competitor. DRS once again now brings this matter to the FCC’s attention in light the challenge process to competitive coverage that concludes on April 28, 2016. The failure of the A-CAM to exclude DRS as an unsubsidized competitor constitute a significant impact in the A-CAM for those Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers (“ILECs”) listed below that are in close proximity to DRS’ affiliated ILEC, Dickey Rural. Upon analysis of the A-CAM version 2.2 results, these rate-of-return neighbors discovered that DRS’ fixed wireless service is still considered an “unsubsidized competitor” within its neighbors’ service territories and therefore the Company is inadvertently “knocking out” a significant number of census blocks from receiving A-CAM support due the fact that the FCC continues to associate *Dickey Rural’s* wireline voice service with the competitive fixed wireless service provided by DRS, which is a mischaracterization. DRS provides no voice service anywhere on its entire network. The only voice service provided by any DRS affiliates is that provided by Dickey Rural on its ILEC network as demonstrated by the reporting on its Form 477 of ILEC voice.

DRS remains concerned that these changes are still not accurately incorporated into the nearly-final version of the A-CAM. DRS respectfully requests that the FCC remove its broadband-only fixed wireless service as a competitor in the A-CAM, based on the Company’s *accurate* Form 477 data, as the Commission intended to exclude only those areas in which an unsubsidized competitor offers *both* voice and broadband services. Without these corrections, the forthcoming final version of the A-CAM will not reflect the facts pertaining to the census blocks served by DRS and the North Dakota ILECs with the correct broadband technology and service

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<sup>4</sup> See Wireline Competition Bureau Releases Alternative Connect America Cost Model Version 2.0 and Illustrative Results For Potential Use in Rate-of Return Areas, WC Docket No. 10-90, Public Notice (rel. Oct. 8, 2015).

<sup>5</sup> See Attachment A. On the other hand, Dickey Rural’s filing shows fixed broadband deployment and subscription data and fixed voice. The Form 477 requires ILEC voice to be separately reported from non-ILEC voice so if DRS had any voice subscribers, they would have been separately reported under DRS. See FCC Form 477 Instructions at p. 14, *Note on ILEC / Non-ILEC Filings* (rel. Mar. 23, 2016).

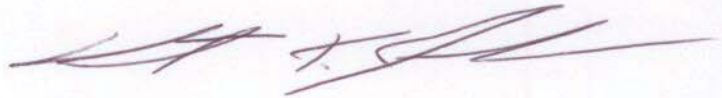
<sup>6</sup> Dickey Rural notified the FCC of these changes in a letter filed January 25, 2016; See *Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative*, WC Docket No. 10-90 (filed Jan. 25, 2015).



area. Without these corrections, the Commission's universal service goals for the North Dakota ILECs' study areas will be impeded as the amount of support available will not be sufficient to advance broadband technology in the area.

DRS hereby submits a declaration (see Attachment B), attesting to the fact that it does not provide voice service anywhere on its network, including the census blocks of the neighboring ILECs listed below and that the only voice provided by any affiliates is the voice service provided by Dickey Rural, which is limited to Dickey Rural's study area, which do not overlap with the study areas of the neighboring ILECs.<sup>7</sup>

Sincerely,



Robert Johnson  
General Manager  
Dickey Rural Services  
PO Box 69  
Ellendale, ND 58436

cc: Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative & Dakota Central Telecom I, Inc.  
Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation  
Inter-Community Telephone Company  
Moore & Liberty Telephone Company  
Griggs County Telephone Company  
Red River Rural Telephone Company  
Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company

Enclosure

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<sup>7</sup> A list of all affected census blocks will be provided upon request.

## ATTACHMENT A



(RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS)  
Form 477 Filing Summary

6-30-15 Revised

FRN: 0006999155 Operations: Non-ILEC Submission Status: Original - Submitted Last Updated: Dec 4, 2015 12:27:53

Filer  
Identification

Section	Question	Response
Filer Information	Provider Name	Dickey Rural Services, Inc.
	Holding Company Name	Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
	SAC ID	
	499 ID	
Data Contact Information	Data Contact Name	Troy Radermacher
	Data Contact Phone Number	(701) 344-6061
	Data Contact E-mail	tradermacher@drtel.com
Emergency Operations Contact Information	Emergency Operations Name	Robert Johnson
	Emergency Operations Phone Number	(701) 344-6010
	Emergency Operations E-mail	RJohnson@drtel.com
Certifying Official Contact Information	Certifying Official Name	Robert Johnson
	Certifying Official Phone Number	(701) 344-6010
	Certifying Official E-mail	RJohnson@drtel.com

Data Submitted

Form Section	File Name	Date & Time	Number of Rows
Fixed Broadband Deployment	Dickey Rural Services Fixed Wireless Blocks.csv	Dec 4, 2015 12:24:43	11461
Fixed Broadband Subscription	Dickey Rural Services Fixed Wireless Counts.csv	Dec 4, 2015 12:25:55	6

Fixed  
Broadband  
Deployment

Census Block Counts by State, DBA Name and Technology

State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
North Dakota	Dickey Rural Services Inc.	Terrestrial Fixed Wireless	11461
Total			11461

Fixed  
Broadband  
Subscription

Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by State, Technology and End-user Type

State	Technology	Subscriptions			
		Census Tracts	Consumer	Business / Govt	Total
North Dakota	Terrestrial Fixed Wireless	6	23	5	28
Total		6	23	5	28



(RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS)  
Form 477 Filing Summary

b-30-15 Revised

FRN: 0003741253 Operations: ILEC Submission Status: Revised - Submitted Last Updated: Dec 4, 2015 11:51:36

**Filer Identification**

Section	Question	Response
Filer Information	Provider Name	Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
	Holding Company Name	Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative
	SAC ID	381611
	499 ID	803022
Data Contact Information	Data Contact Name	Troy Radermacher
	Data Contact Phone Number	(701) 344-6061
	Data Contact E-mail	tradermacher@drtel.com
Emergency Operations Contact Information	Emergency Operations Name	Robert Johnson
	Emergency Operations Phone Number	(701) 866-6721
	Emergency Operations E-mail	RJohnson@drtel.com
Certifying Official Contact Information	Certifying Official Name	Troy Schilling
	Certifying Official Phone Number	(701) 344-6016
	Certifying Official E-mail	tschilling@drtel.com

**Data Submitted**

Form Section	File Name	Date & Time	Number of Rows
Fixed Broadband Deployment	Dickey_Rural_Telephone_Cooperative_477.csv	Dec 4, 2015 11:44:22	7290
	SD Dickey_Rural_Telephone_Cooperative_477.csv	Dec 4, 2015 11:08:46	176
Fixed Broadband Subscription	FCC 477 Internet Counts.csv	Dec 4, 2015 11:50:31	121
Fixed Voice Subscription	Interactive data entry 0		18

**Fixed Broadband Deployment**

**Census Block Counts by State, DBA Name and Technology**

State	DBA Name	Technology	Blocks
North Dakota	Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	7290
South Dakota	Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative	Optical Carrier/Fiber to the End User	176
Total			7466

**Fixed Broadband Subscriptions by State, Technology and End-user Type**

## ATTACHMENT B





Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative  
Dickey Rural Services, Inc.

### **DECLARATION OF BOB JOHNSON**

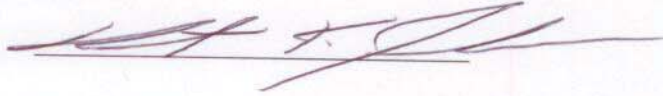
I, Robert Johnson, state as follows:

1. I am General Manager of Dickey Rural Services ("DRS" or the "Company"). I have personal and direct knowledge of the representations made by DRS in its April 26, 2016 Comments to the Federal Communications Commission, Docket No. 10-90, regarding the Company's service area and its competitive overlap with neighboring incumbent local exchange carriers ("ILECs"). Based upon my personal and direct knowledge, I verify the truth and accuracy of the information contained herein.
2. DRS does not provide voice service anywhere on its network, including the census blocks of the following ILECs in North Dakota: Dakota Central Telecommunications Cooperative, Dakota Central Telecom I, Polar Communications Mutual Aid Corporation, Inter-Community Telephone Company, and Moore & Liberty Telephone Company, Griggs County Telephone Company, Absaraka Cooperative Telephone Company, and Red River Rural Telephone Company ("Neighboring ILECs"). Accordingly, DRS does not qualify as an "unsubsidized competitor" in any of the service areas of the Neighboring ILECs.
3. DRS's affiliate, Dickey Rural Telephone Cooperative ("Dickey Rural") is an ILEC that offers voice and broadband within its study area; however, Dickey Rural does not offer voice or broadband service in any areas served by the Neighboring ILECs.



I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed on April 26, 2016

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Robert Johnson', written over a horizontal line.

Robert Johnson  
General Manager  
Dickey Rural Services  
PO Box 69  
Ellendale, ND 58436